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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

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1 MR. RUMLEY: We'll go ahead and call
2 the meeting to order. We appreciate you staying
3 through the work session and the meeting. At this
4 time I would like to ask Robert Goff to lead us in
5 prayer and also the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Thereupon, the invocation and
7 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

8 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regularly
9 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission
10 which takes place at the same time on the first
11 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this
12 meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade County
13 and has been posted in the hallway of the
14 Administrative Building.

15 At this time I need a roll call.
16 Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Here.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

19 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

21 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

23 MR. GOFF: Here.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Rumley here.

25 The reading of the minutes of the

1 previous month's regular meeting will not be
2 required as all commissioners have been furnished
3 with copies of it in advance. All of you do have
4 your copies and have reviewed those? The minutes
5 are public record and available for review in the
6 county executive's office. If you want a copy, come
7 by. Melissa, Jennifer, they'll give you a copy of
8 that. The minutes are included in the consent
9 agenda. Before we ask for approval, I would like
10 for Don to go through the consent agenda that we
11 discussed at the work session.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: The approval of the
13 previous meeting minutes, the approval of a
14 proclamation for the EVIL week for February 8th
15 through the 12th, proclamation -- emergency
16 services, approval of D-E-R-I-N-T audiolog 3000
17 series maxpro, version four system license for the
18 E-911 center, Resolution R-02-10 for a budget
19 amendment, 2009 budget amendment; Resolution R-03-10
20 for the FTA Georgia Department of Transportation
21 Section 5311 grant application for fiscal year 2011;
22 resolution R-04-10, financial policy for Dade
23 County; Resolution R-05-10 commission meeting policy
24 requiring resolutions to be read once for approval
25 and ordinances, one public hearing to be held first

1 reading and then the second reading for final
2 approval.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Anyone have any
4 questions? Lamar, Scottie?

5 MR. PITTMAN: No.

6 MR. RUMLEY: At this time I would
7 entertain a motion to approve the consent agenda.

8 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we approve
9 the consent agenda.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

11 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call a vote.

13 Mr. Cervelli?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

16 MR. GOFF: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

18 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

20 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

22 At this time I'll move down to number
23 two, district commissioner committee reports.
24 Lamar, do you want to go first?

25 MR. LOWERY: Yeah. At the last meeting

1 we didn't have too many people because it snowed.
2 We might have had four people. Even our newspaper
3 reporter didn't make it.

4 MS. FORD-WALLACE: First time.

5 MR. LOWERY: First time she said.

6 Anyway, I reported on the -- the courthouse building
7 is really coming along amazingly for the weather
8 that they've been fighting through. We have some
9 forms back here on the back table from our Dade
10 County Emergency Services and it's what we call a
11 code red weather warning. It can be sent to your
12 home. It can be sent to your cell phones and if
13 you'll just fill this out if you would like to know
14 about any severe weather warning in your area or in
15 the county. It could be an early warning system
16 that could really save a life. I guess it could be
17 for chemical spills or something like that on one of
18 our railways. Is there anything you would like to
19 add to that, Alex? You were gone when I started
20 that.

21 MR. CASE: It also helps with missing
22 children. We had two Alzheimer patients missing
23 last year, one on Sand Mountain. We had the same
24 lady twice in the Wildwood area. We're able to also
25 initiate this in the field with our laptops. The

1 sheriff's office has got them. I could go in on
2 community service and provide a two-mile radius in
3 just a few minutes. It's a hand shake with the Dade
4 County School System. They purchased another module
5 off this, what everybody has been getting on the
6 school closings. But as of yesterday, we've got
7 just the school children's numbers and home numbers
8 on there. We won't be doing an all call for the
9 whole county. Some folks don't have children, but
10 it was a great asset. Between both of us, we just
11 shared it between ourselves to do it to make it
12 happen.

13 MR. LOWERY: So I hope everybody will
14 take advantage of this. The forms are back there on
15 that back table.

16 MR. CASE: You can go online to Dade
17 Sheriff, Dade County Schools, Discovery Dade or Dade
18 Sentinel and the code red logo is there as well. If
19 you want to update your information or change a
20 number or something and it will override your stuff.

21 MR. RUMLEY: This is one of the most
22 important things that's happened in the county in a
23 long time as far as emergency situations go because
24 this is the equivalent to having the old air sirens
25 really if you want to compare it to it because if

1 you're signed up -- let's say we had weather moving
2 in here and we had, say, Peachtree City weather or
3 Huntsville spotted a cell at New Salem or at West
4 Brow, you can pinpoint that. You can -- just your
5 area, you'll get a call on your cell phone, home
6 phone. If you're like me, you keep your cell phone
7 on you most of the time anyway and instantly, you
8 know, if you've got five minutes or if you've got 30
9 minutes, they'll tell you right then and it's not
10 just shooting the bull. It's fact. You better do
11 something. Or if we had a disaster like if we had a
12 terrorist attack or say, for instance, a nuclear
13 reactor. I mean, if you're out cutting wood, if
14 you've got a cell phone, you're going to be
15 notified.

16 So if you haven't signed up for this
17 thing, and I'm talking to people out in TV land, you
18 need to really check with Alex, go online. This is
19 really important no matter what part of the county
20 you live in. So I'm sorry. I didn't mean to take
21 your time. I get to preaching on this. I've been
22 through a tornado. I know how it is.

23 MR. LOWERY: You have. Ted really
24 knows how important it is.

25 MR. RUMLEY: I wish we had a little

1 more warning. Of course, if we had, you know -- the
2 Lord was watching us that night.

3 MR. LOWERY: The last thing, I guess, I
4 have to report on, it's something personal, I guess,
5 too, but it's probably the best Christmas present me
6 and my wife could have gotten is we found out in
7 August we're going to be grandparents, our first.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Maybe it won't look like
9 Lamar.

10 MR. PITTMAN: Okay. Just in case any
11 of y'all weren't here in the work session -- can you
12 hear this? In case y'all weren't here during the
13 work session, we had a group of citizens from Pikes
14 Peak Subdivision on Sand Mountain. This is an
15 ongoing thing. I've been a commissioner now for
16 seven years and homeowners call me and they live on
17 private drives. The developers promise them when
18 they get three houses, five houses that the county
19 will come in and pave the road. That's not the way
20 it works. It's not just the developers. It's the
21 real estate agents. I actually looked at a home on
22 Pikes Peak and I was told by the real estate agent
23 the county would come in and pave it. Well, that's
24 not the way it works.

25 I wish everybody knew that because

1 people buy this property and they are under the
2 conception -- under the misconception that we're
3 going to pave it. It's a really bad thing. So you
4 guys that are here every month, y'all know that the
5 County doesn't just pave people's private drives. I
6 wish -- I hope everybody gets the word out. I hope
7 the newspapers put it in that the only way the
8 County can pave a private drive is if the homeowner
9 gets it up to County specs first and it's like a
10 two-year process. We have to inspect it.

11 MR. RUMLEY: We still don't pave it.
12 We maintain it and then we'll accept it.

13 MR. PITTMAN: These developers and even
14 the real estate agents, a lot of them believe that
15 we will pave the communities and that's not the way
16 it works. So just try to get the word out. You
17 know, it's really heartbreaking when especially
18 elderly people or people, you know, can't afford to
19 pave a two-mile long road. What's the going rate on
20 paving a mile now, Billy? It's around 40 grand,
21 right?

22 MR. MASSENGALE: If it was, we would
23 pave a lot. It's about -- last year with the state
24 stripe and all, it was \$100,000 for one mile.

25 MR. PITTMAN: 100,000 for one mile. So

1 these little subdivisions, if they've got over a
2 mile, there's no way that people can go in. They
3 probably just bought the land, they've just built a
4 home and they're thinking we're going to come in and
5 pave. I've never really had anybody really mad at
6 me because of it. They get mad when they find out.
7 They're usually mad at the developer that's told
8 them this. So let's just get the word out and if
9 you hear a real estate agent telling somebody that,
10 correct them. Don't just let them keep talking.

11 MR. RUMLEY: I couldn't believe they
12 said that, two real estate agents.

13 MR. PITTMAN: I had one actually tell
14 me that and I stopped her and told her that's not
15 the way it works. I actually called the real estate
16 agent's office and told them, you know, you don't
17 need to be telling people this, but they were under
18 the -- they were under the understanding that's the
19 way it worked and it's not.

20 MR. LOWERY: This ordinance has been in
21 place since, I think, 1992.

22 MR. PITTMAN: And it's -- a lot of
23 times -- I mean, the same names come up. It's not a
24 lot of bad seeds. It's not a lot of bad apples.
25 It's the same names. That's all I'm going to say

1 about that.

2 I would also like to thank our road
3 crew. We had another snow. I know they were out
4 late that night grading the roads off. They came by
5 my house. It was probably around 11:00 when they
6 came by my house. Billy called and wanted me to
7 make him some coffee or something. I told him just
8 to keep going. No. They did stay out late.

9 MR. RUMLEY: All day Saturday and
10 Sunday, too.

11 MR. PITTMAN: They do a really good
12 job. I mean, we've had some really bad weather in
13 the last three or four months. Emergency services,
14 the 911 dispatchers, they're here all the time, but
15 the road crew does really good. Billy does good
16 working with them. I haven't had any complaints
17 thank you, Billy, and tell all your guys thank you.

18 MR. RUMLEY: The Sheriff's Department,
19 too.

20 MR. PITTMAN: The Sheriff's Department,
21 the deputies helped Billy get trees off the road.
22 The volunteer firefighters, they're out all night.
23 We've got a really good core group of people in Dade
24 County. I would like to tell everybody thanks.

25 MR. RUMLEY: That's the most I've heard

1 you talk.

2 MR. PITTMAN: Well, I was trying to get
3 Peter to be quiet.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Robert?

5 MR. GOFF: I really don't have a lot.
6 I was not one of the four that was here last month.
7 Of course, I was in Mexico on a mission trip and I'm
8 glad to be back home. No matter where you go, you
9 find out that there's no place like home in the
10 United States and especially Dade County.

11 I report on the recreation and as
12 everybody knows, there's not a lot going on this
13 time of year, but I would like to say I've heard
14 from several people even here very recently of how
15 well kept the parks are and I know everybody doesn't
16 benefit. They can benefit in some way from them,
17 but another place where a great job is done and Lord
18 willing, in just a couple of months the weather will
19 be back pretty and that will be swarming with people
20 down there.

21 Just a couple of general information
22 items and I know some don't like to hear it and
23 we're going to hear it especially for the next two
24 or three months is the census. I noticed yesterday
25 on the -- even on your water bill down in the

1 corner, Dade County Water has put a little thing
2 about them hiring and there are jobs. They're here
3 every Wednesday hiring if somebody would like to
4 have a part-time job. They're here on Wednesday
5 mornings hiring and taking applications. But when
6 you get that and we've talked about it before and
7 that's what they've asked us to do is just keep
8 informing people that a lot of the things that we've
9 talked about here tonight, a lot of the services, a
10 lot of the grants, a lot of the federal and state
11 moneys is based upon the number of citizens, the
12 number of residents living within a county.

13 This will be the simplest form I think
14 that anybody has ever filled out. It's about ten
15 questions. It doesn't even ask a lot of the
16 personal questions that people are thinking. So I
17 urge you to when you get it be sure and do it and
18 get your family and others to do it and take it very
19 serious because I think, as they say, a lot of the
20 north Georgia counties don't get their fair share
21 because of fewer people, but we think we have more
22 people than that.

23 On that note, and I'm going to let out
24 what, I guess, people think -- one thing is a great
25 big secret. Everybody does know the legislation is

1 in session right now and I think in just looking at
2 some of the things they're looking at, tax, property
3 tax, tax, tax, tax of some kind, add valorem tax,
4 tax on this, tax on that. That's the buzz word in
5 the legislation. Well, I'm going to tell you a
6 place you can go. You hear us use the term or the
7 letters ACCG and it's not a secure web site. It's
8 for anybody that wants to look at it and to see the
9 types of things that are coming before our
10 legislation this time. If you just go to their web
11 site, they track all these things and you can go on
12 and see what bills, who's brought them before the
13 House, who's brought them before the Senate and get
14 a little -- sometimes you can read the entire bill
15 there online. So I urge you to do that because a
16 lot of it is doing -- dealing with property tax and
17 the things that are going on in Atlanta and we need
18 to stay on top of it not just as commissioners, but
19 you as citizens, if you see things in there. Of
20 course, the ACCG will tell you whether or not they
21 are opposing it, whether they're still evaluating,
22 whether they are endorsing it or what or they're
23 just still looking at it and watching it, but we
24 have fared very well.

25 I don't want to get on Peter's money

1 issues here. He does a much better job than I could
2 at that, but we're still in some pretty tough times
3 out there, but we have weathered very well so far
4 and I think we'll continue to, but the State is not
5 through yet. Federal is not through yet. If you
6 watched the news today, they passed another
7 1.9 trillion. Carnell, me and you went to Davis.
8 How many zeros is that? A bunch of them. About
9 that many. So it's not over. The recession, or
10 whatever we're in, is not over.

11 Again, I want to take this opportunity
12 not only to thank the people that work, Billy's
13 people and Alex's people and Patrick's people.
14 These guys up here are out doing what we can in
15 these tough times. But to urge us to really keep on
16 top of these things and so that you know that
17 nothing is hid. And so just keep those things in
18 mind and it's good to be back home.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Peter?

20 MR. CERVELLI: I recommend the ACCG web
21 site just to see the kind of things some of our
22 legislators think up as rules and laws.

23 MR. RUMLEY: It will surprise you,
24 believe me, when you go on it.

25 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. It's amazing how

1 many things people can think up in whatever that
2 40-day session that they have down there.

3 Budget, exciting, local option sales
4 tax, which we use to fund our operating revenue, we
5 collected \$142,000 in January. That's a drop from
6 December of about 16 percent. December is an odd
7 month. There was some numbers in there, extra
8 dollars that the state spread around, so that drop
9 is a little bit more than normal. Compared to last
10 year, it's actually up 32 percent month over month
11 compared to 2010 versus 2009. If you do all 12
12 months and compare 12 months to 12 months, we're
13 down about nine percent year over year.

14 I've been trying to track this thing
15 with volatility. Of course, the numbers are up and
16 down and all I can see is when you smooth out
17 several months worth of data is right now we're sort
18 of flat. There's nothing going down. There's
19 nothing going up. It's just we've sort of hopefully
20 reached the bottom. I'm not going to tell you that
21 that's what those numbers mean, but we're sort of
22 tracking like this and so it's not going like that,
23 but the last several months when you average out the
24 data, it's sort of tracking like that. Hopefully it
25 means we've stabilized, but I don't know. So we'll

1 see.

2 In terms of S.P.L.O.S.T, we have a
3 budget for S.P.L.O.S.T. We were hoping that every
4 month we would bring in about \$210,000 in order to
5 achieve all the things we wanted to achieve with
6 S.P.L.O.S.T by the end of the six years when the
7 S.P.L.O.S.T is over. Well, we didn't bring in
8 210,000 last month. January's check, we brought in
9 about \$178,000. We did make it last month, but when
10 you take what we've collected so far on this new
11 S.P.L.O.S.T, we're already down \$111,000. In terms
12 of what we hoped we would get by this point, we're
13 down 111,000. That's about ten percent lower than
14 we expected or hoped we would collect on
15 S.P.L.O.S.T. I wouldn't say that's good news. In
16 fact, the market crashed a little bit today, so I'm
17 not sure this recession is over, but maybe we've
18 reached bottom. So I don't know if that's a good
19 news story or bad news story. I think maybe at best
20 we're stable. That's all I can say.

21 In terms of the budget, we're going to
22 try something a little bit different now. Instead
23 of reporting on January, which is the month that
24 just closed, we're going to report on the previous
25 month. There's so much change that happens in order

1 to close the books. Revenue continues to come in.
2 Expense continues to come in in the next month that
3 we have to post back to the last month that Don is
4 having a challenge trying to keep the numbers
5 straight. So we have December clear and so we're
6 going to report absolutely what we know for what
7 happened 30 days ago. So we'll be trying that over
8 the next several months. We'll still know what
9 happens in January, for instance, so we'll have some
10 directional information, but we really want to be
11 very clear about what we do know, which is the
12 previous month or the month that just passed. So in
13 February, we'll talk about December. In March we'll
14 talk about January.

15 We do have some information in terms of
16 what the expenses are, but we're still catching up
17 in terms of closing the books for the end of the
18 year. So in terms of what happened in December, how
19 the year actually closed, it went remarkably well in
20 terms of budgeting. I can give Don credit for being
21 a good budgeteer. Our revenue came in at
22 99.8 percent of what we expected it to be and that's
23 pretty remarkable on the revenue side because you
24 don't have a lot of control over revenue. It's what
25 sales taxes or people buy, who pays their property

1 tax, etc., etc. And so coming in almost at 100
2 percent of what we expected to get in revenue is
3 pretty remarkable and so I'll let him take credit
4 for that.

5 On the expense side, we closed the year
6 spending about 92 percent of what we hoped to spend,
7 so that's good news. We brought in all the revenue
8 we hoped we would bring in and we spent about
9 eight percent less than we hoped we would spend.
10 That's about \$686,000 less than we expected to spend
11 in terms of our budget for last year.

12 In this economy and with strong
13 management out of our department heads and the
14 constitutional officers and a lot of sacrifice on
15 people who took furlough days, I think we've left
16 the year remarkably well and we should all be proud
17 of that in terms of being good stewards of your
18 money and so I'm pleased to say I think in this
19 economy we've done remarkably well in terms of
20 managing our dollars.

21 I would also like to thank the road
22 crew and Commissioner Rumley. He was out there
23 cutting trees as well. He wasn't sitting back here
24 directing people. I would like to thank the New
25 Salem Fire Department. I saw them up there cleaning

1 up a mess up by Covenant College that the State
2 never got around to.

3 MR. RUMLEY: West Brow.

4 MR. CERVELLI: West Brow. I'm sorry.
5 Thank you. Which the State never got around to
6 doing. I think we have some questions about GDOT's
7 response in this snow storm and I'll let Ted talk a
8 little bit about that. But in terms of our local
9 people, they did a great job. I would not have made
10 it home or gotten off the mountain without what was
11 done.

12 Two other things, talking about the
13 sewer in Flintstone. We're getting very close to
14 that actually happening. Flintstone is that
15 community, the old Air Force base up by Covenant
16 College. We hope to have a homeowners' meeting next
17 Thursday to tell them about the grants, what's going
18 to be expected of them as homeowners, Lookout
19 Mountain, Georgia, the government, city government
20 of Lookout Mountain, Georgia, what they plan to do.
21 We're very close. This thing has been around a lot
22 longer than I've lived in this county and so there
23 are some legal issues that still need to be dealt
24 with, but I'm hopeful that this thing -- by this
25 time next year, I'm hopeful that thing will be

1 solved and done and finished and those people will
2 have a sewer system that works.

3 We also have a new light, I guess, in
4 your neck of the woods up there by Fox Trial. I
5 think that's Fox Trial, a new -- Georgia Power put a
6 new light up there to help with that cross road.
7 The local residents are picking up the tab for it
8 and it's going to help in the fog and so if you're
9 up there, take a look.

10 MR. REYNOLDS: Up by the 911 tower.

11 MR. CERVELLI: Yes. Right by the 911
12 tower. Exactly right. And the residents have paid
13 the bill, so that's the best deal we can get.

14 MR. RUMLEY: It's not shining in your
15 bedroom, is it?

16 MR. CERVELLI: No, no. I'm told it's a
17 low voltage, low --

18 MR. REYNOLDS: It's not low voltage.
19 It's bright, very bright.

20 MR. CERVELLI: And the only other
21 thing, Rodney Ross, who is the fire chief up at New
22 Salem, was recently in the hospital. He'll -- he's
23 home now. He's got some medical issues, so keep him
24 in your thoughts and your prayers while he works
25 through some of those problems that he has.

1 Last thing. There is one other thing.
2 Farmer's aid, you've been reading about this in the
3 newspaper about the soldier farmer who lost all his
4 material, his house was robbed, his truck was gone.
5 They've got a new truck for him and have got some
6 tools for him, but they're still trying to collect
7 some additional money. There's an event tomorrow
8 night down at the American Legion. I think it
9 starts at 7:00; is that correct? 7:00. It's \$10 to
10 get in, but all the money goes to help the soldier.

11 So if you can make it, there will be
12 some entertainment, bluegrass music. There will be
13 some beatniks there I'm told, poetry reading, some
14 food, \$10, good cause, farmer's aid tomorrow night
15 at the American Legion.

16 MR. GALLOWAY: They're going to have
17 via satellite to talk to the guy, so that will be
18 interesting. We all need to get together to help
19 this guy. They're going to have a silent auction,
20 but this is something that we all need to come
21 together and show, you know, that we care about
22 these soldiers.

23 MR. CERVELLI: That's right. He'll be
24 live by video.

25 MR. GALLOWAY: Here's the thing about

1 it, they say there haven't been too many sales, but
2 I'm sure if people just think about it, they will
3 come. I think they're going bluegrass music, too.
4 But it's going to be worth the \$10 or 20 if you want
5 to donate 20. Donate what you want to. I know it's
6 \$10 to get in, but you can give more.

7 MR. CERVELLI: You can give as much as
8 you want.

9 MS. HURST: They're actually opening it
10 with a live video feed of him leading the Pledge of
11 Allegiance.

12 MR. RUMLEY: What she said is they're
13 going to open it with him actually leading the
14 Pledge of Allegiance overseas over in Iraq. That
15 will be interesting. I hope to have a good turnout
16 and hope the weather permits.

17 January has been a busy month. The
18 weather has been -- as all of you know that lives
19 here, it's been a stressful thing. As everyone
20 said, I think we've complimented all of our people
21 involved and I think the road crew did a good job.

22 January also is a month that I have a
23 lot of things coming across my desk pertaining to
24 grants, grants that are available, grants you may
25 receive, grants you will not receive. I've not

1 heard anything and won't hear anything probably
2 until March on a couple of big ones, actually maybe
3 April. We actually last year applied for a sewer
4 grant. It's a \$10 million grant that will bring
5 sewer from 299 into Trenton and cover all the north
6 end of the county. It will also pick up Slygo exit
7 and there will be a sewer line going across the
8 ridge there. We have a really good chance for that,
9 but I'm not -- I never get my hopes up, but I feel
10 good about it. So I'll update you as that goes on.
11 I have been on the phone several times and actually
12 met with some people yesterday pertaining to that.

13 We have -- we did apply for a grant, a
14 partial grant for the repair of this dam on Lookout
15 Mountain. We will not hear anything until late
16 spring on that, from what I understand. Chances are
17 kind of 50/50 on that from the way it looks, but I
18 will keep you up on that.

19 I've had a lot of -- for some reason
20 this month I've had -- let's see, I've actually had
21 seven calls of -- I don't know. It kind of comes in
22 spurts. But of dogs, not dog attacks, but we had a
23 lady call, well, Monday I guess it was. She was
24 walking on a county road and there was two
25 Rottweilers, you know, just sitting in the road and

1 she knew who they belonged to. They belonged to her
2 neighbor. But she walked up and she got -- I don't
3 know why she called this office, but she was
4 standing in the road, you know, looking at the dogs
5 and she said how am I going to get home, you know.

6 So fortunately the lady that owned the
7 dogs came out and they had gotten out of the pen.
8 But anyway, I've had several instances. I don't
9 know really why, but I had a few on Sand Mountain,
10 but the majority of them has been on Lookout. So,
11 you know, if you do own one of these dogs like a Pit
12 Bull or whatever, try to really keep the -- and
13 every one of them, every one that I had call me,
14 they weren't just running loose. They were tagged
15 dogs, but they just forgot and left the gate open.
16 Those two dogs there, just the little walk gate came
17 open. So if you've got these dogs, try to keep them
18 up if you can. I just don't want to see an incident
19 like we had a little girl on Lookout Mountain, you
20 know, I ran into them out on the mountain the other
21 day. She'll have lifelong injuries, you know. I
22 mean, it's just a sad thing.

23 We had a question on our garbage fee
24 that we're charging, our dump fee. One of the
25 people that contracts that picks up garbage from out

1 on the mountain here, I thought he was going to be
2 here tonight. But anyway, it's \$34 a ton is what it
3 amounts to, what we actually charge. He was under
4 the impression that we might be charging BFI one
5 price and him maybe more. It's all flat, \$34 a ton.

6 The school red light over at the school
7 there and also we've been working on that with DOT.
8 We're going to be in Atlanta on the 9th and we'll be
9 meeting with the DOT. We got that scheduled today
10 and hopefully, we're trying to get a red light there
11 coming out into 136 and I think we've got a really
12 good shot at that. There is actually one -- a large
13 group of people out at 301 at the Crossroads, right
14 where Crossroads, used to be Ace Hardware and
15 they've petitioned for a light there for some time,
16 either a four-way stop or some type of red light.
17 And I didn't realize it was that big an issue
18 until -- I mean, I've got probably 150 names back
19 there that a few people gathered right there around
20 that area. The State will be evaluating that. Of
21 course, it's up to them. It's not a county
22 decision. Both of those will be up at the state.
23 We'll be presenting that to them also on the 9th.

24 The -- oh, yeah. Robin, I don't know
25 if I can ask you to do this, but one big issue that

1 I've dealt with a lot this month is the status of
2 the our lawsuit, the Rex Blevins lawsuit. For those
3 of you -- most of you probably know, but he has
4 appealed that lawsuit and from what I understand, we
5 will be going not to the local court, but it will
6 override that and go to the state appellate court;
7 is that right?

8 MR. ROGERS: Yes. He had -- as has
9 been reported in the paper, he has appealed the tax
10 decision to the Georgia Supreme Court and because he
11 was appealing basically -- he was challenging an
12 ordinance on the basis of constitutional ground,
13 there's a basis for him to appeal directly to the
14 Georgia Supreme Court. So in this case it kind of
15 covered both basis and appealed both -- started the
16 proceeding for an appeal both at the Court of
17 Appeals as well as the Supreme Court, but more than
18 likely will go to the Supreme Court in Georgia.

19 So that case has not been documented by
20 the Supreme Court yet and so we really don't know
21 when it would go for a schedule or oral argument
22 until that's done. I anticipate we'll get the
23 docketing soon within the next couple of weeks
24 anyway. That's when I can tell you more about what
25 the timeline might be for that.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you, Robin.
2 That's straight from our attorney that your tax
3 money pays right there. That's not something you
4 see on TV because Rex has been on a couple of shows,
5 but that's the real deal right now. So that's where
6 we stand right now.

7 Oh yeah, I mentioned our grants. We
8 are very actively, our whole crew here, going after
9 getting money that's out there possibly for our
10 county size or whatever, but the two meetings, I've
11 gone yesterday and the day before, but it seems like
12 every time you get your hopes built up and you go to
13 these seminars or these meetings, you know, the
14 grants are there, but they'll tell you flat out
15 there's no money there. The State, they're
16 probably -- but there are some things out there
17 we're really working on that would benefit us and
18 benefit our roads and all. We're going to be in
19 Atlanta several times this month while session is
20 in. So I appreciate if y'all would keep us in your
21 prayers and any comments that you can make or
22 anything that you -- you know, feel free to call me
23 at the office or call -- stop one of the
24 commissioners and talk to them. Any wants that you
25 might see.

1 Just like this red light, I never even
2 thought about a red light out there. But these
3 people, they see a need and it is in a community.
4 The school light, now, that's something that has
5 crossed my mind and I thought that was actually in
6 the works, but that's needed. That's badly needed.
7 There's been a couple of accidents happen over there
8 just in the last few weeks, but just keep us in your
9 prayers.

10 We've got -- I'm not speaking for
11 myself. I say it every week. It's an honor to be
12 here and work with these people right here. They do
13 a good job. They're always there for me, I mean,
14 and every day. I don't think a day goes by that I
15 don't call and talk to one of them about something,
16 whether somebody has come in and chewed me out about
17 something or whether they're complimenting us or
18 need help. So just keep us in your prayers. I
19 appreciate you. All of us do.

20 MR. LOWERY: Mention the DOT.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. That's something
22 else. Peter mentioned that. During the snow,
23 that's something else we're going to bring up in
24 Atlanta. We had some response time for our DOT,
25 Department of Transportation as far as our snowplows

1 and salt trucks coming in here. Now, after midways
2 into it, they really came in and they actually -- I
3 think they had five small trucks, two tandems and
4 then at 5:00 I was notified that they were
5 actually -- that it was time for them to get off,
6 you know, Friday morning into that evening and
7 that's the Friday it started. So that left us with
8 two small trucks, wasn't it, Billy, and two state
9 small trucks.

10 MR. MASSENGALE: Not many of them.

11 MR. RUMLEY: That's what Troy told me
12 over the radio. So we got on the phone and Alex got
13 on the phone and I even called Mullis and by -- it
14 was probably 2:30 in the morning, I guess, when we
15 got those tandems back over here to actually -- but
16 we had -- what I'm getting at, we had half an inch
17 of ice on the interstate just north of here and it's
18 just too much time involved there. You know, I
19 mean, especially knowing this storm was coming. I
20 know their excuse when I called the next day was,
21 you know, funding and furloughs and people, but you
22 know, to me when you see a storm and you know it's
23 coming, it's not something that might happen. It
24 was on the way and they needed to direct people this
25 way and it could have been a life-threatening

1 experience to some people, especially on the
2 interstate.

3 We kept our county roads clean, but
4 even on our main routes up the mountain here, a lot
5 of people had problems on it and it was a time frame
6 for waiting for those people to come in. Anyway, I
7 can go on about it, but we're going to do our best
8 to try to get them to keep at least this station
9 here manned with more people, keep their salt trucks
10 here especially when they know weather is coming in
11 because it is a problem. I'm just not going to wait
12 until someone's life is -- a death happens and then
13 we say, well, we told you so. I mean, it's just
14 not. Do you have anything to add to that Lamar?

15 MR. LOWERY: I got calls on it about
16 nobody showing up.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Oh, I know. A lot of
18 people thought we were responsible. So anyway --

19 MR. LOWERY: The only other thing I had
20 was when Robert was talking about the census, I did
21 notice out on the bulletin board, they're
22 advertising for jobs, that they're taking job
23 applications in our area.

24 MR. RUMLEY: On Wednesdays.

25 MR. LOWERY: It's out there on the

1 bulletin board if anybody is interested.

2 MR. RUMLEY: One other thing I wanted
3 to mention. This is for the -- critical. I had
4 this stuff wrote down. Anyway, but Lamar brought to
5 my attention last night that the -- our
6 advertisement for our meeting was not -- we actually
7 presented to our local organ, which is the Dade
8 County Sentinel, but it was not in the paper. I
9 didn't look for it, but Don had -- what was it
10 Friday that you -- you know, it's our duty to
11 actually bring it to them. Whether they print it or
12 not, I guess that's -- Robin, you were issued also?
13 You got a copy of it, too, didn't you? Didn't you
14 give Robin a copy Monday or Friday? So we apologize
15 for that if y'all noticed it, but we'll make sure
16 that -- we'll double call and make sure it is in the
17 paper somewhere.

18 MR. LOWERY: I did talk to Robin about
19 it and she said she submitted it, but she don't put
20 the paper together.

21 MS. FORD-WALLACE: That's all right.
22 I'll talk to them.

23 MR. RUMLEY: We do apologize. Legally
24 we did our part. Of course, Evan, he had it and he
25 posted it online and he runs it on the radio and

1 all. I did want to explain to you, some of you or
2 some people out in radio land, TV land would have
3 noticed it.

4 MR. LOWERY: I think Evan is on 106.1
5 FM and 1420 AM, too, now and he runs it at the first
6 of the week and it's also on DiscoverDade.com. If
7 you go under mountain valley, he always posts the
8 agenda in there, too.

9 MR. RUMLEY: We want you here. We want
10 to pack this house every time we have a meeting.
11 That's the whole point of this and you don't --
12 sometimes you don't get the real story here, you
13 know, to these meetings and listen to every word.
14 Of course, we can come and get the minutes and look
15 at them, but we want you here. That's why we have
16 food and coffee and there's not a place I speak at
17 that I don't remind people the first Thursday, 6:00
18 our meeting, but we do appreciate you people. I try
19 to say that every week, but we do mean it.

20 Barton Harris, mayor, if available. I
21 don't think he's available now.

22 MR. CERVELLI: He's on the road
23 somewhere.

24 MR. RUMLEY: He's on the road. Okay.
25 That's our mayor. I'm sorry, but he -- when he has

1 anything important, he'll show up.

2 All right. Don, let's go down to our
3 financial report. Don Townsend.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. The general
5 fund had a balance or has a balance of 1,282,628;
6 federal asset fund for U.S. Treasury, 4,389; special
7 sheriff's fund, 17,164; drug abuse education fund,
8 37,416; supplemental juvenile services fund, 13,967;
9 victim assistance fund, \$3,364; jail fund, \$8,203;
10 federal asset fund, Department of Justice, 28,710;
11 payroll account, 61,598.

12 If you can look on the screen now, go
13 down principal and interest account 992,142, capital
14 bond fund, 144,641. That's very quickly shrinking
15 because we're paying bills on the courthouse. 2009
16 S.P.L.O.S.T funds, 23,134 in the projects accounts.
17 In the proceeds account, \$521,008. Construction
18 fund has a total amount of 2,005,107 for a total
19 available S.P.L.O.S.T balance in the new S.P.L.O.S.T
20 of 2,549,249.

21 Fire departments S.P.L.O.S.T leases we
22 see we've made the first payments on some new trucks
23 for 2009, \$49,676 each, leaving a balance of
24 \$200,324 for New Salem, South Dade and Trenton. You
25 see Davis, New Home, North Dade and West Brow listed

1 there. Their balance is 4,847. New Home used all
2 their S.P.L.O.S.T funds. North Dade has \$3,826 and
3 West Brow \$22,266.

4 Go to S.P.L.O.S.T, Commissioner
5 Cervelli reviewed that very well, so I'll try not to
6 repeat everything he said. January, you see up here
7 as he mentioned 107,872 in '09. The 142,312 and
8 that is up just a bit, so hopefully that's a little
9 bit of improvement we hope.

10 This is a seven-year -- seven-year
11 average of monthly revenues, so January, if you
12 average all seven years together, \$133,008. This is
13 the local option sales tax that we're discussing
14 February and so on through December. So right now
15 we did okay. We came in with local option sales tax
16 at 151,000 -- I'm sorry, 142,312 as you can see
17 January. I love technology. January is 133,000, so
18 we're breaking the average a little bit.

19 Now, under S.P.L.O.S.T revenues, year
20 to year January, 129,203 and so on down, 2010. So
21 177,000 is not terribly bad. You can see the graph
22 right there. There was a big dip from 2008, 2009,
23 but in '09 we do see an increase and we hope and
24 pray that it continues the trend upward. Same thing
25 with the prior three-year average monthly revenues

1 for January is 169,304 and for the month of January,
2 this past January is 177,890, so again, we see a bit
3 of a trend up and we're hopeful it's a trend.

4 One more thing. I've kind of spent a
5 little more time on S.P.L.O.S.T this month than we
6 normally did, but I just wanted to bring you
7 up-to-date on these projections. The overall annual
8 revenues, let me go down here and show you this. If
9 you see there's a double for a month, 2006 to 2007
10 there was an increase of 2.16 percent. For 2007 to
11 2008 it went down 3.9 percent. 2008 to 2009 was a
12 double digit decrease, 13.7 percent. So that's the
13 reason behind the graph that's above this. You can
14 see it's a pretty deep swing and as Commissioner
15 Cervelli noted earlier, that may be the baseline
16 that we've been looking for.

17 We are looking at January -- I'm sorry,
18 December 31st again and we have had several things
19 post to the month. We still have a few more
20 revenues to come in, things like TVA in lieu of tax
21 payments, some distributions from beer and alcohol
22 distributors, things such as that. But we've
23 collected very well at 99.8 percent. So overall, I
24 think we're doing fairly well. January is looking
25 okay. We pay a lot of bills in January that go back

1 to December, so January's expenses traditionally are
2 down a little bit and February is a short month.
3 March is right around the corner, so it will be back
4 kind of normal. I think it's going to be pretty
5 much the same as last year. We just have to watch
6 our spending and keep in line with revenues. If the
7 revenues start falling, then we'll have to maybe
8 take action at that time, but right now everything
9 looks good.

10 The budget is on course. Our fiscal
11 year-end is coming up, believe it or not.
12 June 30th is the end of our current year and then
13 July 1st we'll start a new year. We're preparing
14 for our audit. We have about 45 more days of
15 collection period that we have to review everything
16 and then we'll be looking at our auditors coming in
17 hopefully sometime in April, maybe May, but I'm
18 hoping April. And then again another audit, lucky
19 us, in about August. So we get two audits this
20 year, but anyway, that is the financial report.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Don. Any
22 questions for Don? I'll entertain a motion to
23 approve the financial statement issued by
24 Mr. Townsend.

25 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion we

1 approve the financial statement as read.

2 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I
3 hear a second?

4 MR. GOFF: Second.

5 MR. RUMLEY: I do have a second. I'll
6 call a vote. Mr. Cervelli?

7 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

9 MR. GOFF: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

11 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

13 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

14 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.
15 Okay. Robin, do you have anything? I could have
16 brought this up in legal matters, but as far as the
17 Rex Blevins.

18 MR. ROGERS: No, I have nothing.

19 MR. CERVELLI: I just have a quick
20 question, Robin. What's the likely cost of an
21 appeal for us? I mean, is there a way to estimate
22 what the cost would be for us to deal with that?

23 MR. ROGERS: Typically for an appeal to
24 the Supreme Court, you're probably looking at 15 to
25 20,000, something like that.

1 MR. RUMLEY: That's our cost roughly?
2 Is there anything we could do to kind of get that
3 down? We could try bartering maybe, mow your grass
4 or something. Man.

5 MR. ROGERS: I'll do what I can on that
6 one.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. People, you heard
8 that.

9 MR. PITTMAN: We're actually trying to
10 recoup the money.

11 MR. RUMLEY: We can't right now. Any
12 other questions, anything you want to add?

13 MR. LOWERY: The only other statement I
14 would like to make, I've heard Mr. Blevins say that
15 some of the past commissioners agreed with him. Ted
16 was chairman five years ago and sat at that table
17 right there and Rex got up and left a meeting
18 because we wouldn't stand with him on going against
19 the citizens of this county. I hate that it's cost
20 us that kind of money, but we've got to do the will
21 of the people and that's what we voted on and I
22 think that's what we should get.

23 MR. RUMLEY: That's true. What you say
24 is true.

25 MS. FORD-WALLACE: Can the press

1 request that you all make a statement like that?

2 MR. RUMLEY: Do what, Robin?

3 MS. FORD-WALLACE: I would like you all
4 to make a statement like that for the record. I
5 mean, I don't know that I have the right to do that,
6 but I can ask.

7 MR. RUMLEY: You don't have the right
8 to do that, but you can see us after the meeting.
9 Did we not just make a statement?

10 MS. FORD-WALLACE: Lamar did. You
11 have. I'm talking to Scottie, Robert and Peter.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I've made a statement
13 everywhere I've went talking about this thing.

14 MR. PITTMAN: I was on the same
15 commission and I remember the same meeting Lamar
16 does. Me, Ted, Allan Bradford and Lamar and Rex and
17 Rex asked the other four of us to go along with him
18 and we all told him people had voted on it, so
19 that's the way we were going to go, the way people
20 had voted.

21 MR. CERVELLI: One hundred percent.
22 The people voted on that and we're going to defend
23 their decision.

24 MR. GOFF: Ditto on that and I was told
25 the other night that I was wrong because I felt that

1 way by, I guess the defendant or the plaintiff, but
2 I do think that, you know, in this -- he is
3 certainly entitled to his opinion and fight it as
4 far as he wants to, but people voted overwhelmingly
5 for a law that was passed in Atlanta by the
6 Legislation and I support that vote.

7 MR. RUMLEY: True. And I know you
8 should know how I feel about it because I've
9 preached about it everywhere I've went. You don't
10 challenge the majority of the voters of a county or
11 a state or the government. It's just not what --
12 once it's voted on, you don't have one person come
13 in. If he hadn't three quarters of the people of
14 this county that came out behind him, you know,
15 that's different. Majority rules. But this is
16 voted on. This is passed. I mean, it's a shame
17 that we're having to spend the money to actually
18 defend it. I mean, it really is. Or that we've
19 spent, plus another 15 or 20. So -- my blood
20 pressure is up anyway. It really gets my blood
21 pressure up when I think about this. It's not a
22 good subject.

23 MR. LOWERY: Robin, what about
24 Christina Holmes, she named herself in on that at
25 one time. Has she dropped it or is she in on it?

1 MR. ROGERS: Prior to this -- to the
2 hearing we had here in the county, we reached an
3 agreement that -- if the case was not dismissed on
4 some procedural grounds, she would drop her appeal
5 and so she -- as I understand, and you want to speak
6 with their attorney, but as I understood from their
7 attorney, she was placed there in case there was
8 some sort of procedural defect with regard to
9 Mr. Blevins and if there had been, she would have
10 proceeded with hers. I think she's dismissed hers.

11 MR. RUMLEY: So she's out of it in
12 other words? Okay.

13 All right. Let's move down to
14 unfinished business. Have we got anything right
15 now? Unless y'all have anything. New business, I
16 think we've discussed about everything new tonight
17 that we've got on the roster.

18 If anyone wants to come talk to us
19 here, come up to the podium here and state your
20 name. Come on up, Roger. We welcome your thoughts
21 and your comments.

22 MR. WOODYARD: I'm Roger Woodyard from
23 Rising Fawn. I'm also a member of the South Dade
24 Fire Department.

25 MR. RUMLEY: You're the chief, right?

1 MR. WOODYARD: Well, that too. That's
2 probably why I'm here. Nobody else -- well, Matt
3 is. I have a concern and I've had it for 20 years
4 and nobody has ever addressed this issue fully. We
5 are fortunate that y'all support us. Y'all have had
6 kind words in the paper for us, helping out during
7 storms and wrecks and fires.

8 We have 91 fire hydrants in South Dade
9 in that district. South Dade covers Rising Fawn,
10 Cloverdale, Birds Chapel, Johnsons Crook and through
11 there. Out of 91 hydrants in 2008, we checked them,
12 not flow tested, which is also required by ISO flow
13 testing twice a year. In 2008 and for the previous
14 ten years we have been told that we couldn't test
15 them because of the drought, flow test them. I
16 called Mr. Anderton and spoke with him to see if we
17 could just turn the hydrants on and see which ones
18 were working and which ones weren't or there were
19 problems with. Some of them are in bad need of
20 painting and that's part of what we have done in the
21 past. In fact, several people have gotten on to me
22 about painting fire hydrants.

23 Out of our 91 fire hydrants -- I have a
24 list and I can get it to you after the meeting or
25 pass it around. Twenty-one of these are not

1 working. Two or three of them in a row sometimes.
2 Rising Fawn Baptist Church is probably the largest
3 structure except for the Pilot in Rising Fawn, hard
4 to turn on, hard to turn off. What does that mean,
5 it's going to sheer a pin. You go to the next
6 hydrant south just below the hardware store across
7 from the old Baptist church that we had a structure
8 fire called in for Mr. Eddie Hester, the hydrant
9 across the road didn't work, two in a row.

10 MR. CERVELLI: Clarify. Didn't work,
11 no water at all?

12 MR. WOODYARD: Yeah. You turn it on
13 and that paper is wetter than that hydrant was that
14 I just handed you. I've got each of you a paper and
15 I can give it to you.

16 When I've talked to the Water Authority
17 over the years, they pointed out to me and I
18 actually went and read the charter, their charter
19 says potable water, drinking water. I find it quite
20 ironic that the same group that tells me all they
21 have to do is provide potable water is up here with
22 their hand out for S.P.L.O.S.T money for fire
23 hydrants and stuff. They've got them laying over in
24 the yard in pipes and have had for years off and on.

25 Several years back we went to the State

1 Legislator and he was ready to propose changes in
2 how the Water Authority answered.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Operates.

4 MR. WOODYARD: Matt Hill, one of our
5 lieutenants, and three other people gave up about
6 three days that week of July 7th, 2008, went to 91
7 locations and tested hydrants. This list, as I say
8 on the front of this sheet, was given to
9 Mr. Anderton in August of 2008. I have not heard
10 one word in that time frame. Some of these hydrants
11 might have been fixed. I would suspect that more
12 have broken.

13 MR. RUMLEY: That's scary, Roger, what
14 you're telling us.

15 MR. WOODYARD: It's scary. One of the
16 things --

17 MR. RUMLEY: I know it's on our end,
18 but how many is in the county?

19 MR. WOODYARD: Well, part of this is
20 for informational purposes. I would encourage each
21 commissioner to talk to their fire departments. I
22 think Mr. Cervelli, Commissioner Cervelli has talked
23 to Chief Ralston and they've had problems trying to
24 flow test them.

25 It's a little bit discouraging for

1 people who give of their time, not just for fire,
2 but for rescue and medical calls. It's discouraging
3 for the taxpayer and citizen viewpoint that we're
4 putting taxpayer dollars into the pot. We're
5 getting S.P.L.O.S.T money. We're getting 5,000 a
6 quarter for maintenance and we get new trucks and
7 nice equipment and the people, especially I can
8 speak for South Dade, have really supported us in
9 that. And the trucks, no offense, are not a lot of
10 good without water. We've spent more time in my 20
11 years fighting for water supply than we have
12 fighting fires.

13 So I'm just putting this before the
14 Commission. I don't want to turn it into a
15 political football.

16 MR. RUMLEY: No. It don't need to be a
17 political football. It needs to be fixed.

18 MR. WOODYARD: And I don't want it
19 voted on every week. What I have -- Don Townsend, I
20 would like to recognize him. I've talked to him
21 over the past two years and I think some of the
22 stipulations he and Robin put on -- about the last
23 S.P.L.O.S.T for the Water Company was -- had a great
24 deal to do with them and our conversations, but
25 there is a group called American Water Works

1 Association, AWWA. They've been in the business for
2 years and they tell you what kind of pipes, what
3 size pipes and how they should be gridded and so
4 forth to get the proper flows for fire fighting.
5 And before it sounds like I'm just talking about
6 fire fighting, one of the issues is if you do not
7 have enough water to fight a fire, you probably do
8 not have enough water to sustain those subdivisions
9 and developments that we're talking about. So it's
10 a bigger issue than fire departments. But if you
11 put the developments in anyway with no water and you
12 put nice houses there, then we can't protect them.

13 MR. PITTMAN: You also touched on it,
14 Roger, it affects your ISO rating.

15 MR. WOODYARD: It's something that we
16 need to be working on to get a better ISO rating,
17 which is a direct return of investment to the
18 taxpayer if we can lower the ISO.

19 MR. CERVELLI: Or get it raised because
20 you don't have water.

21 MR. WOODYARD: Yes. I hesitated, but a
22 year and five months we've had no response from the
23 Water Company. I've talked to one or two of their
24 board members.

25 MR. RUMLEY: What does the board

1 members say?

2 MR. WOODYARD: They said they would ask
3 about it and they may have. I'm not saying that
4 they didn't ask, but we got no response of any kind
5 from the Water Authority. One of the things you
6 talked about with the DOT is slow response can mean
7 somebody's life. If we get to a fire not only
8 homeowners, children, one of our fire fighters gets
9 back in there and we run out of water, it's
10 dangerous. So I'm very concerned and I'm also very
11 frustrated with the lack of cooperation and response
12 from the Dade County Water Authority.

13 MR. CERVELLI: Well, I was shocked when
14 I first moved here and we had no water. The tank
15 went dry. They finally got that fixed and I made
16 the point about, well, what about fighting fires and
17 I was told that wasn't in their charter. It was
18 just to provide drinkable water and that was
19 amazing.

20 Well, as I told you when we spoke about
21 this, I'm ready to do anything we can. If we need
22 to go to a board meeting where commissioners sit in
23 that board meeting with the Water Authority's board,
24 we need to resolve this issue.

25 MR. RUMLEY: I would like for us -- I

1 would have gotten Doug here tonight because he's the
2 one who actually runs the show. He makes the call.

3 MR. WOODYARD: I understand.

4 MR. RUMLEY: He's the one I'm going to
5 be on the phone with in the morning, as these other
6 people I've got to call, but I want to get some
7 answers and not just answers, but get some action
8 because it is their responsibility to maintain the
9 internal; is not that right?

10 MR. WOODYARD: Yeah. Several of the
11 pins are sheered. Flow has to do more with
12 engineering upfront in getting the proper size
13 lines. And not just fire department, if two times
14 out of ten when you went to turn on the water in
15 your house or take a shower and it didn't work, how
16 would you feel? We've got 24 percent to right at
17 25 percent of our plugs that don't work. And this
18 drought thing is so important that we can't test the
19 hydrants and yet I can take you to about ten of
20 those places and you can stand in a mud puddle or a
21 lake in the middle of the drought because the lines
22 are leaking where the hydrant is. So I have real
23 issues with that. I've been on it for about 18, 20
24 years.

25 MR. PITTMAN: I'm sure this is not

1 isolated to Rising Fawn.

2 MR. WOODYARD: That's for your
3 information. I would urge you not to take my word
4 for this.

5 MR. GOFF: I have spoken with someone
6 from another fire department. It is not isolated to
7 just the south end. It is a problem. And the time
8 to find out one doesn't work is not when smoke is
9 coming out of a roof.

10 MR. WOODYARD: And this guy that we
11 went to on Saturday, January 16th, the hydrant was
12 at 4209. The house was at 4250, across the road 200
13 feet. It was a good hydrant when it used to work,
14 good hydrant. He had already lost one house about a
15 year and a half ago.

16 MR. RUMLEY: About a year and a half
17 ago.

18 MR. WOODYARD: And he's sitting there
19 and the hot water heater had caught on fire or
20 coming in from the propane. We were trying to crawl
21 under the floor and so forth. We were fortunate.
22 And the look on that man's face was pretty pitiful.
23 He was terrified and I don't blame him. I mean, it
24 was scary that that man could have lost another
25 house. It's hard enough to put out a house fire

1 with good water. It's impossible without it. The
2 fire service is a little slow to change, but they
3 haven't found anything yet better than water to put
4 the fire out. So that's where we are and I wanted
5 y'all to have the information and to know from 2008
6 to this date our people put in the effort and time
7 and got that to the Water Authority and we've heard
8 nothing.

9 MR. GOFF: You told me in our
10 conversation the other day basically what you had in
11 the tanker was what you were able to save that house
12 with.

13 MR. WOODYARD: Right. Well, Alex is
14 here, but on an actual structure fire, two
15 departments respond. With that we had about 6,000
16 gallons of water on the scene, but that's like
17 anything else. It's better to have too much water
18 than not enough and if you get a firefighter down or
19 a person trapped in a house passed out and we're
20 trying to get to them, I mean, it scares you. So
21 I'm very concerned about this.

22 Again, I don't want it to be a
23 political football. I don't want it to be a knee
24 jerk reaction, but I don't think after 18 to 20
25 years of fighting it that I'm on the knee jerk

1 reaction side, but something needs to be done. I
2 personally would hope and request as a citizen first
3 that if they come up here in a S.P.L.O.S.T situation
4 for more money, unless they met some stricter
5 standards even though you put some in, I wouldn't --
6 if I were sitting in your seat, I couldn't vote for
7 that. We had to show you what we were purchasing,
8 tell you what we were going to purchase and
9 rightfully so with the taxpayer dollar. So I
10 appreciate it.

11 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate you, Roger.
12 All right. Local press, there she goes after him
13 right now.

14 MR. CASE: I'm going to commend what
15 Roger said. This has been an issue almost 18 years
16 of volunteer on my side as well. It's been tough in
17 all districts when we back up other departments. We
18 took it upon ourselves, the city fire department.
19 We bought some tools and broke some of our own city
20 hydrants down and repaired and it's not on our side.
21 It's on the Water Company side and we've spent our
22 own city money or the city spent their own money and
23 had our labor to do it on the weekends. It's been
24 tough.

25 The last big fire we assisted Davis

1 with, the first plug I went to wouldn't work and
2 they didn't know it and here I am by myself trying
3 to pull a plug on it in the middle of the night and
4 it's raining. It was right there at Crossroads
5 Hardware. So I had to go all the way down to
6 Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Did you report that one
8 there?

9 MR. CASE: Yeah. I let Casey and them
10 know. I let Casey and them know and they reported
11 it. But it's been a standard issue we've had for
12 years. It's the worst thing to pull up to is not
13 being to get that water out of that tanker once you
14 dump your thousand to two thousand gallons of water
15 and you're running four or five miles down the road
16 to get back to it and fill it up and you turn it on
17 and you've got 50 pounds of pressure. So I'm
18 waiting 15, 20 minutes to put water in the truck and
19 command is hollering where are you at, where's your
20 water.

21 Something I really like that was on, I
22 think, our last general election was about the
23 Commission appointing board members to that Water
24 Authority.

25 MR. RUMLEY: That's what Robin is going

1 back --

2 MR. CASE: And I'm sorry. I got --

3 MR. RUMLEY: That was something brought
4 up about the --

5 MR. CERVELLI: That was a question on
6 the primary ballot.

7 MR. RUMLEY: But it was up about
8 several years ago.

9 MR. CASE: This is to me as a citizen,
10 not worker for the commission, but, you know, the
11 volunteering I've done and all these guys have done,
12 Roger, Matt, Rodney. It's in every community and
13 it's a problem. If we can't flush these things
14 twice a year to get the rust and the soot out of
15 them, they're going to sit there and rust and break
16 and when we go to turn them on, it breaks those
17 stems. I mean, we broke a four-foot pipe off of one
18 we done the other day. We've got to repair them, so
19 we've got some game plans to try to do it, but we
20 always work with the Water Company when there's
21 water to do it. It's getting to a point where it's
22 getting tough and it's going to get one of us hurt.

23 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate you.

24 MR. WOODYARD: One other thing. For
25 Commissioner Pittman, ask them what size line runs

1 to the hydrant in front of the nursing home where my
2 father is now. Ask them what size line that is.
3 Two.

4 MR. CASE: And one of the things we've
5 been working on for our ISO, 40 percent of our grade
6 that ISO gives us our fire rating is our water
7 company and I've worked. Me and Jerry, Chief Kyzer
8 has been working on the City's and we brought it up
9 at the City meeting. I know Peter has heard it.
10 It's been a struggle to get this. I mean, a
11 struggle. And I don't want to base what we worked
12 so hard for to make our protection and our
13 S.P.L.O.S.T money going toward our equipment and
14 only 60 percent of that grade, but part of it is our
15 quality of water.

16 In '94 when the City got it, we flowed
17 ten sections and nine of them failed. West Brow got
18 theirs not long ago and they failed over 75 percent
19 of theirs because of inadequate water flow to the
20 structure.

21 MR. LOWERY: You know, what they're
22 talking about was on the Republican ballot last
23 time, that question, we also put -- went to our
24 legislators because we all voted on it this
25 commission to have our commissioners elected at

1 large because of those questions and because we
2 listened to the people and I think if we don't get
3 some action and some action pretty quickly, then we
4 should look at maybe getting that on the ballot in
5 November.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Well --

7 MR. LOWERY: I don't think it's too
8 late. They're in session and we could still get it
9 done.

10 MR. RUMLEY: We just appreciate y'all
11 bringing it before us. You know, we've got to work.
12 The phone is going to be ringing tomorrow. I need
13 all of you on board with this. This is people's
14 lives we're talking about.

15 Anyone else want to come up and talk to
16 us?

17 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: I don't want to
18 come up, but I just want to let everyone know the
19 second and fourth Thursday, the Dade County Patriots
20 is having a TEA party here in this room. Last
21 Thursday -- did I say Tuesday? Thursday, last
22 Thursday they had two gentlemen that's running for
23 Congress to replace Nathan Deal's seat. It was very
24 good to hear from the people that are running for
25 office. Next Thursday there is Sam Olsen and I

1 think it's Steve Woods, Mr. Woods, they're running
2 for attorney general. Dade County has never had
3 anyone running for attorney general come and speak,
4 so it is an election year. So if you guys would
5 come out and like to hear them speak, it would be
6 great.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you.

8 MR. LOWERY: That's a nonpartisan
9 meeting. The Democrats are welcome. The
10 Republicans are welcome and both people get told the
11 right way it is. I don't care if you're Republican
12 or Democrat. It's been three good meetings.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. If no one else --
14 oh, we've got one more.

15 MS. TINKER: Just speaking as a
16 concerned citizen, that scared me. I have had a
17 house to burn and next to a death, when you lose
18 everything you own, that's the worst possible thing
19 that can happen. And these fire departments, these
20 are volunteers that's giving of their time working
21 to try to keep us safe and if they don't have water,
22 I mean that really -- I live up in New Home and I
23 know our insurance and everything is higher because
24 of the water and stuff, but that's not the only
25 reason. It's the safety issue of everything.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Carnell?

2 MR. GALLOWAY: Talking about the red
3 light you were talking about up there at Ace
4 Hardware, in my opinion I think that would be maybe
5 a dangerous spot right there for a red light, but if
6 you could put a caution sign, like a caution sign
7 and have it, you know, like you're going off at Flat
8 Rock right there where all those slow down bumps are
9 that says four-way stop ahead because you've got a
10 lot of traffic there.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Are you for putting a
12 four-way stop?

13 MR. GALLOWAY: If you put a four-way
14 stop or just, say, a caution light and have it say a
15 hundred yards from it and say caution, light ahead,
16 35 miles an hour, whatever, slow them down right
17 there. These people coming around that curve right
18 there and really, if you've got a red light, you may
19 cause more problems than what you've got. I would
20 suggest to do something like a slow down strip or
21 change the speed limit right in there where it says
22 four-way intersection.

23 MR. RUMLEY: That's a good idea. They
24 came up with both ideas. What you're talking about
25 is one of them or a red light and that's what they

1 presented. I mean, there's a lot of people in that
2 area that signed it.

3 MR. GALLOWAY: Another thing about
4 these fire hydrants, I believe they put a new line
5 in about three years ago that was a three-and-a-half
6 inch line.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Are you talking about on
8 the mountain or coming down the mountain? It would
9 have been six-inches.

10 MR. GALLOWAY: They put water fountains
11 I forget ever how many -- water hydrants every so
12 many.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Or two-inch line. All
14 right. No. It was a six-inch line. It has to be a
15 six-inch for it to be certified. I appreciate it.

16 Okay. If there's nothing further, I
17 need a motion to go in executive session. We've got
18 some personnel matters we need to talk about.

19 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we go in
20 executive session.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Okay.

22 MR. CERVELLI: Second.

23 MR. RUMLEY: I have a second. I'll
24 call a vote. Mr. Cervelli?

25 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

2 MR. GOFF: Yes.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

4 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

6 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Yes. It shouldn't take
8 too long if y'all want to hang around.

9 (Thereupon, the Commission went
into executive session.)

10

11 MR. RUMLEY: I need a motion to come
12 out of executive session.

13 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we come
14 out of executive session.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

16 MR. GOFF: I second.

17 MR. RUMLEY: I'll take vote. Mr.
18 Cervelli?

19 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

21 MR. GOFF: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

23 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

25 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes. We
2 did have an executive session to discuss some
3 personnel matters. No action was taken at this
4 time. Do I hear a motion that we adjourn?

5 MR. GOFF: I make a motion we adjourn.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

7 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

8 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call a vote. Mr.
9 Cervelli?

10 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

12 MR. GOFF: Yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

14 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

16 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes. I
18 appreciate all of you coming and staying with us.
19
20
21
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25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
in the above-styled cause on the 4th day of
February, 2010;

That the said proceedings were
reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
proceedings.

This the 1st day of March, 2010.

Erin M. Flatt
Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public
in and for the State of
Tennessee at Large
My commission expires
November 7, 2010.

